THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending court cases

358. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 3.11 crore cases are pending in various trial courts and High Courts in the country as reproted in the Times of India dated the 16th August, 2009;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court, High Courts, trial courts, etc. as on September, 2009;

(d) whether Government has received any proposal to set alternative dispute resolution methods to reduce the burden/disposal of pending cases in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 3,11,39,022 cases were pending in the Supreme Court, the various High Courts and the Subordinate courts as on 30.6.09. Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate reduction in pendency of cases and at present in implementing schemes for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary, computerization of the district and subordinate courts and training of conciliators and mediators.

(d) to (f) Government has been encouraging the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods to facilitate dispute resolution outside the courts and to reduce pendency of cases in the country. Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 has been amended to provide for settlement of disputes through arbitration, conciliation, judicial settlement including settlement through Lok Adalat or through mediation. Various High Courts have set up Mediation Cells at District Level Courts and also in the High Courts. National Level Services Authority and the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution are promoting ADR. Training programmes are also organized for training of Arbitrators, Conciliators and Mediators.

A National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards Reducing Pendency and Delays was held in New Delhi on 24-25 October, 2009, which, *inter-alia*, recognized the need for meditation and other methods of dispute resolution as on organized mainstream justice delivery mechanism.

Cases Cleared by ITAT

359. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :